Checks were made at all schools offering correspondence courses in locksmithing, as well as the records of Dale Carnegie Correspondence School records.

The mailing list of the Wilshire Book Company, Los Angeles, was reviewed.

All field office files were checked pertaining to individuals who had threatened King in the past and appropriate investigation conducted.

Field office indices were also checked against a list of the names of the characters used in Ian Flemming's books.

600,000 IOs were issued, in addition to the 60,000 which were issued in Spanish. These were distributed to all laundries, dry cleaning establishments, salvation armies, and charitable-type residences and in 50 foreign countries. Investigation to locate Ray was also conducted in 17 foreign countries (S)

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SECRET

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MURKIN
44-39961

Did James Earl Ray kill Martin Luther King?

1. Ray purchased the gun used in the shooting. His fingerprints were found on this weapon.

2. Ray purchased the binoculars found with the weapon. His fingerprints were found on the binoculars.

3. Ray rented Room 5-B at the rooming house from which the fatal shot was fired.

4. Ray's fingerprints were found on the Schlitz beer can abandoned at the scene.

5. Ray's fingerprints were found on the shaving can purchased in Memphis and left at the scene.

6. Strands of hair found on the pillowcase in Room 5-B and in the Mustang abandoned in Atlanta had the same characteristics as the sample hairs taken from Ray after his arrest.

7. Laundry found at the scene, at the Atlanta rooming house, and in the abandoned Mustang was traced through the laundry marks to a California laundry and was thereby identified as the property of Ray. Additionally, the dry cleaning ticket found in the Mustang was traced to a Birmingham cleaner and to a customer identified as Eric Galt.

Classified by 1259
Exempt from GDS, Category 1 & 3
Date of Declassification Indefinite

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SECRET

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DATE 07-21-2021
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8. The radio found at the scene had Ray's MSP inmate number stenciled inside. Ray had purchased this radio at MSP on 4/21/67.

9. Cartridges found at the scene were similar in all characteristics to the cartridges purchased by Ray at Aero Marine on 3/30/68.

10. The expended cartridge found in the rifle was fired from the rifle purchased by Ray, which rifle was found at the scene.

11. The bedspread left at the scene and cloth fibers found in the Mustang match.

12. One map found in Ray's room in Atlanta had four areas circled in the city of Atlanta:

1. King's residence
2. SCLC Headquarters
3. King's church
4. The area where Ray had parked the Mustang in the vicinity of his rooming house.

13. When arrested in London, Ray was quoted as saying, "Oh, God, I feel so trapped."

14. Ray pleaded guilty to the question asked by Judge Battle, "Are you pleading guilty because you killed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ?" "Yes, yes, yes."

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Did Ray act alone?

While at MSP, Ray was visited more than a dozen times by his brothers. His brother, John Larry, visited Ray the day before his escape.

After his capture, Ray indicated to his attorney that after his escape, he walked to St. Louis (about 100 miles) and obtained a ride from a friend to Chicago. John Larry Ray told a source that after his brother's escape, he met James Earl in St. Louis. It would appear, therefore, that Ray was transported to Chicago by his brother. Investigation at the Winnetka Diner where Ray was employed, and at the hotel where he obtained lodging, confirmed the fact that he may have walked to St. Louis since his ankles and legs were badly swollen immediately after his arrival in the Chicago area.

Investigation also revealed that the vehicle purchased by Ray in Chicago in July, 1967, was sold in Chicago in August, 1967, to Jerry Ryan, an alias used by Ray's brother, Jerry Ray.

Subsequent investigation, however, and review of telephone toll records and telegraph records fails to confirm that Ray was in regular contact with his brothers or that they were aware of his location or activities after August, 1967.

Interviews of inmates familiar with Ray, interviews of residents of dwellings utilized by Ray, interviews of students and

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instructors who worked with Ray, and of employees at the bars frequented by Ray, all confirm that Ray was "a loner."

Investigation also revealed that while Ray returned the first weapon he purchased from Aero Marine "on the advice of my brother," this advice was not received from a coconspirator, but rather was obtained as a result of his inquiries at the three other Birmingham gunshops prior to his purchase of the fatal weapon, and as a result of his review of the booklets he had obtained at one of these shops, one booklet pertaining to Remington rifles, the other to Redfield scopes.

James Earl Ray, unlike his two brothers, had served in the U.S. Army, had been a military policeman, and would have had a greater expertise with weapons than either of his brothers. It is therefore unlikely that he would act upon the advice of either of these brothers in reference to the purchase of the murder weapon.

Additionally, investigation determined that Ray was alone in Birmingham, arrived alone in Memphis, did not utilize the telephone in his room, was alone when he rented the room at the rooming house on the day of the shooting, was alone when he purchased the binoculars, was alone as he sat in the Mustang parked near the rooming house prior to the shooting, was alone as he fled from the scene, and was alone when he arrived in Atlanta on the morning of 4/5/68.

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Additionally, investigation by RCMP in Canada revealed that Ray received no calls, made no calls, and was visited by only one person who was later identified and interviewed. Investigation in London by New Scotland Yard revealed that Ray remained a solitary figure in London, and was alone in Lisbon except for his activities with the two prostitutes who have been identified and interviewed. (S)

Investigation has failed to indicate there was any conspiracy.

Why would an experienced criminal leave so many clues at the scene of the crime?

Ray had a history of ineptitude. During earlier criminal forays, Ray on one occasion dropped his identification as he fled from the scene and was arrested shortly thereafter.

On another occasion, Ray fell out of the getaway car and was captured.

After another armed robbery, Ray ran into a blind alley and was captured.

While incarcerated at MSP, Ray was unsuccessful in an escape attempt in 1961 when the homemade rope used to scale the wall broke. He suffered a broken arm.

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A 1966 escape failed when a homemade ladder broke.

In the 1968 robbery of the Fulham, England, bank, Ray passed a note to the teller which instructed her to give him the money. He then fled from the bank, leaving the note with the teller. His thumbprint was found on the note and the handwriting was identified as Ray's. (67)

In a 1970 escape attempt from the Bushy Mountain Prison, Ray attempted to utilize a drainage tunnel to effect his escape, but instead entered the wrong manhole leading to a locked but very warm enclosure housing the steam pipes used to heat the prison facility.

Where did Ray obtain funds during his 14 months of freedom?

Inmates familiar with Ray at MSP indicated that Ray was involved with selling amphetamines and may have been earning as much as $200 a month.

In 1963 Ray had told his attorney that Ray was going to send funds to this attorney in excess of lawyer's fees and requested that this money be forwarded to his brother, Jerry. The attorney returned the first excess funds sent from Ray and Ray made no further attempts to utilize the attorney in this regard.

After his capture, Ray told Bradford Huie that when he escaped from MSP in April, 1967, he had on his person several hundred dollars. It is more likely that Ray had forwarded this money to his

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brothers and had this money returned to him when he escaped.

After his escape from MSP, while employed at the Winnetka Diner (where he had earned in excess of $700), Ray, on leaving this employment, asked his employer to mail his last check to his brother. This would confirm the fact that Ray had money put aside for him through a member of his immediate family.

One inmate who had met Ray in St. Louis in June, 1967, stated that Ray was trying to purchase a pistol "to make a score." Ray finally did purchase a pistol in Birmingham in August, 1967.

Individuals who resided in the same Birmingham residence as Ray indicated that during the last week of his stay in Birmingham in October, 1967, Ray paid for his room only and not for board, because his funds were low.

Individuals with whom he was in contact in Mexico, the bartender and the two prostitutes, indicated that Ray was on a tight budget and spent much of his time searching to buy marijuana. (S)

The bartender at the Los Angeles bar where Ray met Marie Martin and then met Charles Stein, her brother-in-law, indicated that Stein was dealing in narcotics. New Orleans Police Department records of Stein indicated that Stein had been arrested 7 times in New Orleans for distribution of narcotics prior to his departure for California. Marie

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Martin's husband had died of an overdose in New Orleans prior to her moving to California. Both Marie Martin and her brother were arrested numerous times in California subsequent to her friendship with Ray for possession and for distribution of narcotics.

When Ray was in London after the assassination, his photograph was positively identified from a spread of 10 as an individual who unsuccessfully attempted to hold up a jeweler. (S)

Ray was identified as the individual who successfully robbed a bank in Fulham, London, England, on 6/4/68 (take was 95 pounds). (S)

These activities are not the work of an individual who was hired as a hit man to kill King and to thereby receive a large payoff.

If Ray were part of a conspiracy, but was not paid for carrying out the contract, on arrest and thereafter, he most certainly would have sought retribution against those who set him up by revealing their identities. Instead, he refused a trial by jury and entered a plea of guilty, with the realization, as explained by Judge Battle, that entering this plea automatically would deny Ray the right of appeal under Tennessee law.

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